

**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property/District Name: Piscataway Village Historic District Survey Number: PG:84-23

Project: Piscataway Villages development Agency: COE

Site visit by MHT Staff: no X yes Name Elizabeth Hannold Date 1994

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility **not** recommended

Criteria: X A B X C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Based on the available information, including that prepared by Prince George's County M-NCCP and R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, the village of Piscataway appears to be eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. Piscataway was established as a port and government tobacco inspection station in 1707. The village suffered a setback in the 19th century, ^{as} Baltimore became the center for state tobacco inspection and the Piscataway Creek silted up, limiting the shipping capabilities. Although its importance was reduced, Piscataway continued to serve as a commercial center for the surrounding farms and included taverns, stores, a hotel, schools, a church, a post office, and residences throughout the 19th and into the early 20th centuries. Today the village consists of mostly residences, dating from the late 19th through the 20th centuries, arranged in a linear pattern along Floral Park Road. All the buildings face the road and in general the surrounding land is open fields or woods, contributing to a strong sense of rural village. The Edelen House (PG: 84-23-6), a 19th century plantation house, is located at the southeastern end of the village and is connected to it by an expanse of agricultural fields.

Piscataway Village meets National Register Criterion A for its association with the development of early towns in Prince George's County during the 18th century and for its representative evolution as a crossroads rural village during the 19th and early 20th centuries. It also meet Criterion C as a significant and distinguishable entity representing the distinctive characteristics of late 18th through early 20th century residential, commercial, and religious architecture in a rural village layout. Piscataway is one of the best remaining examples of a rural linear village in Prince George's County today. An 800-acre "neotraditional" development is planned for the property adjoining the southern border of the historic village.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project file, Maryland Inventory

PG:84-23, Phase I Archeological and Phase II Architectural Investigations for The Villages at Piscataway, Volumes I and II (R. Christopher Goodwin, June 13, 1996), Piscataway Village Rural Conservation Study (PG-MNCPPC, Part I & II)

Prepared by: R. Christopher Goodwin, PG-MNCPPC

Elizabeth Hannold
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

September 25, 1996
Date

NR program concurrence: X yes no not applicable

Peter E. Kury
Reviewer, NR program

9/30/96
Date

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT**I. Geographic Region:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Eastern Shore	(all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Western Shore	(Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Piedmont	(Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Western Maryland	(Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Paleo-Indian	10000-7500 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Early Archaic	7500-6000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Middle Archaic	6000-4000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Late Archaic	4000-2000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Early Woodland	2000-500 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Middle Woodland	500 B.C. - A.D. 900
<input type="checkbox"/>	Late Woodland/Archaic	A.D. 900-1600
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contact and Settlement	A.D. 1570-1750
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rural Agrarian Intensification	A.D. 1680-1815
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agricultural-Industrial Transition	A.D. 1815-1870
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industrial/Urban Dominance	A.D. 1870-1930
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Modern Period	A.D. 1930-Present
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown Period (<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> historic)	

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Subsistence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Settlement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Political
<input type="checkbox"/>	Demographic
<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technology
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government/Law
<input type="checkbox"/>	Military
<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Educational/Cultural
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation

V. Resource Type:Category: DistrictHistoric Environment: Village, ruralHistoric Function(s) and Use(s): residential, commercial, government, religiousKnown Design Source: na

1704174229
PA # 89-4

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

PG:84-23

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Town of Piscataway Historic District				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Floral Park Road and Piscataway Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Piscataway				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Prince George's		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific _____				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Various private owners				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Prince George's County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro		STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: None				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<div>(Check One)</div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
<div>(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The buildings are mostly nineteenth century structures, built of frame with A-roofs. Some have service wings that are probably older than the present main buildings. The store is a shed-roofed, two story building. Adjacent to it is the tavern, a central doorway building that probably predates the other houses. The church is a nineteenth century brick building with an entrance tower on the main facade. Most of the remaining buildings have three bay facades with end doorways, typical of Federal houses in the area.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☒ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric☐ Historic☐ Agriculture☐ Architecture☐ Art☐ Commerce☐ Communications☐ Conservation☐ Education☐ Engineering☐ Industry☐ Invention☐ Landscape☐ Architecture☐ Literature☐ Military☐ Music☐ Political☐ Religion/Phi-

losophy

☐ Science☐ Sculpture☐ Social/Human-

itarian

☐ Theater☐ Transportation☐ Urban Planning☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	• • •	• • •		• • •	• • •	
NE	• • •	• • •		• • •	• • •	
SE	• • •	• • •		• • •	• • •	
SW	• • •	• • •		• • •	• • •	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Christopher Owens, Park Historian	
ORGANIZATION M-NCPPC	DATE 31 July 74
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue	
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring	STATE Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

THE MARYLAND - NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
REGIONAL AND METROPOLITAN DISTRICTS IN MONTGOMERY AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTIES, MARYLAND



Regional Headquarters Building
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20907
27 April 1973

557-1480
Area Code 301

TO: ROBERT ARCIPRETE
Chief Park Planner, PGRO

FROM: CHRISTOPHER OWENS
Park Historian

SUBJECT: PISCATAWAY

I have received the copies of the tax maps of Piscataway and surrounding areas and shall return them as requested as soon as I have an opportunity to spend a day in the town locating and identifying the important sites on the map.

Piscataway, as I indicated to you on the telephone, was once a major tobacco port for southern Prince George's County. By 1700 there was a store house in the area and evidently the surrounding population was large enough and cultivated enough tobacco to make commercial ventures in the area attractive. Ebenezer Cook's fictional tobacco factor in "The Sot-Weed Factor" visited the town with a view toward opening a store in the same year (1708) that the freemen of the town petitioned the Assembly to remove to another site. But for some reason, perhaps inaction on the Assembly's part, the community was never allowed to remove to its preferred site on Broad Creek. In 1735, Edward Edelen and some other citizens became interested in establishing the town on a firmer footing and petitioned the Assembly to erect a town under the Act of 1706 for the establishment of new towns. The town was never platted--as Upper Marlborough was--into the 100 lots required by the Act, but instead it developed along the south side of the creek along present day Floral Park Road, with narrower lanes running from the major street to the creek. After the passage of the Tobacco Inspection Act of 1747, Piscataway became one of the tobacco inspection stations on the Potomac River; by then, several major English and Scottish factors had established warehouses in the little town where the tobacco planters would bring their crops for sale to the factor, who would ship the combined purchases to England for resale.

The history of Piscataway is not terribly dramatic or exciting, but the importance of the town for the modern world lies in the

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unexciting events that took place there. The town is the best preserved, most completely intact, least intruded upon of the old tobacco inspection ports. During the eighteenth century--indeed, until World War I--tobacco was the mainstay of the Prince George's County economy and thus the basis of its social and community life. No interpretation of the county's history can ignore the importance of tobacco and the institutions and towns it gave rise to. When such a town retains enough of its character and quality to serve as a basis for interpretation of colonial Prince George's County society, it is truly worthy of preservation. Unlike Port Tobacco, where several important buildings have been destroyed, or Bladensburg, where commercial development has all but destroyed the remains of the old port town, or Nottingham, where destruction and construction have changed the environment, Piscataway retains an integrity unusual in Prince George's County in the 1970's.

The Piscataway vicinity is marked on the Preliminary Master Plan for Subregion VI as a special protection area, although the form and character of the "protection" is left unspecified. What follows is an outline for a protection plan that emphasizes the retention of buildings by private owners and combines the preservation of "living" buildings with parks and open space. The basic assumption is that the preservation of the remaining buildings depends on the maintenance of an environment that gives a sense of Piscataway as a tobacco port and agricultural community; interpretation in this case should emphasize the organic relation of town to natural environment. A second assumption is that any plan that contemplates erecting new buildings in the town will effectively destroy the sense of an earlier time that the town now conveys. Even reconstructions as meticulously researched and planned as those at Williamsburg or Plymouth Plantation distort the past and convey a stilted sense of what it really was like; "subdivision colonial" does worse, for it neither conveys a sense of the past nor makes a statement about the present that could stand in contrast to the real past around it. Furthermore, making Piscataway so "alive" that it becomes busy would give a false sense of activity--while closing off the roads and isolating it from traffic would give a false sense of stasis.

What I propose is a program of preservation utilizing the easement program now operating to protect open space and the easement program now being worked out to protect historic structures, with the selective purchase of a minimum number of parcels of land. The former site of one building--Piscataway House, which has been moved to Broad Creek--should become parkland, with an exhibit explaining what was there, as well as a more general exhibit about the town and the area; other park facilities--picnic areas, parking, etc.--could use the same site. A former warehouse site near the creek would also be included in the land to be purchased (if it is not already within the take lines)

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and the foundations would be exposed with an exhibit showing a plausible reconstruction. A path could lead down to the parkland along the creek, and perhaps the National Park Service would cooperate in building a trail from Fort Washington to Piscataway for hikers or bicyclers. Easements would prevent building on the lots not purchased, as well as prevent the mutilation of the structures now standing. Interpretation would combine ecological and historical aspects of the area--the creek and its history, tobacco culture and its effects on the land, man's imprint before the arrival of the English, the effects of settlement on the environment and of the environment on settlement, and the development of town life in colonial Maryland.

Piscataway is probably the only town in Prince George's County where the concept outlined above is still practical. In most other cases, preservation is of single buildings that stand in an agricultural setting or are located in towns where the surrounding environment has already undergone change; "Marietta" is an example of the former, Upper Marlboro of the latter. Rather than have to reconstruct the townlife of the past--as Port Tobacco is now attempting--we can preserve it before it disappears; towns were an important, indeed necessary, adjunct to agricultural society and thus were an intimate part of the landscape of colonial Maryland. It seems reasonable and proper to save at least one.

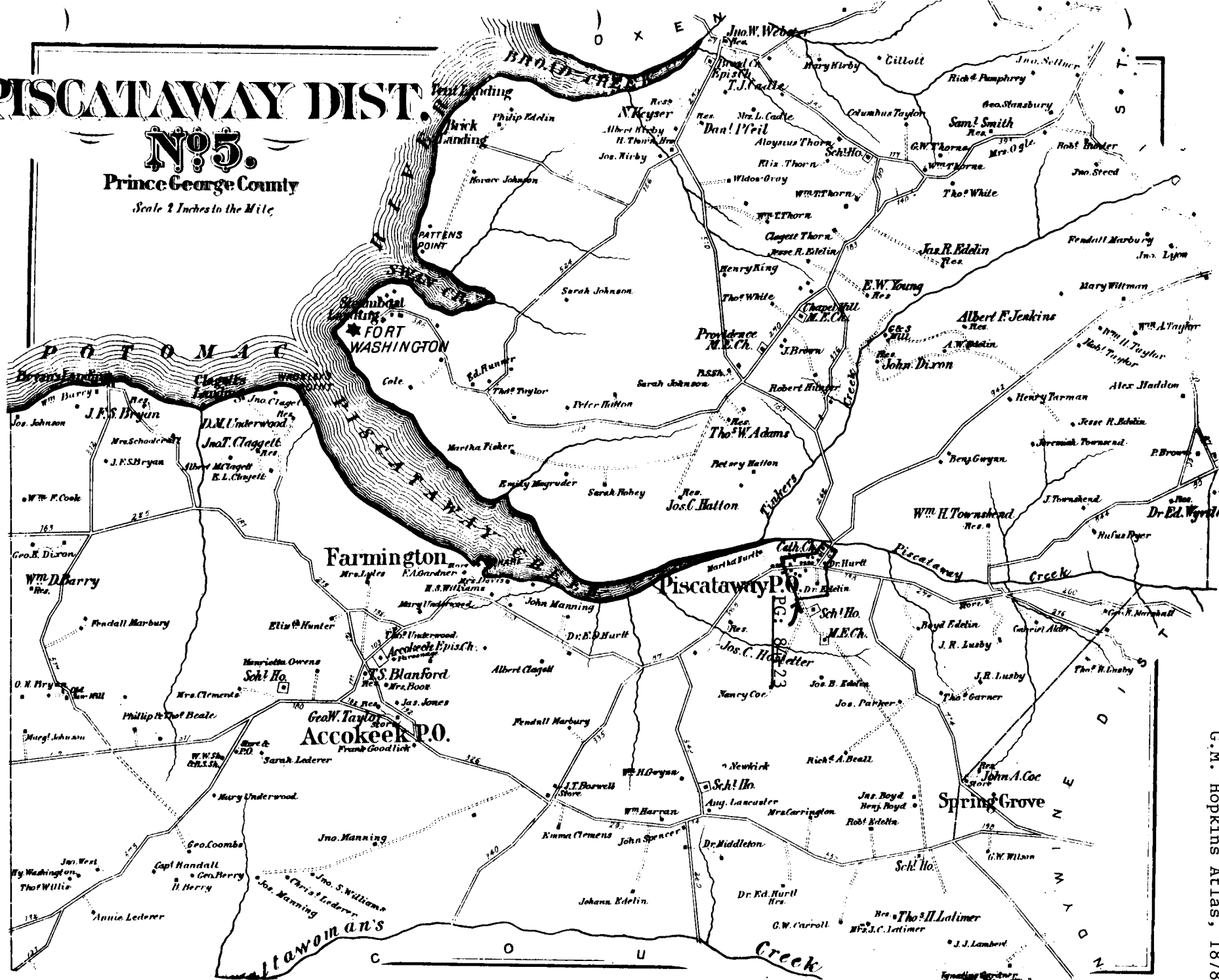
cc: Commissioner Crawley
F. Frank Rubini
Hugh Robey
Herb Robinson
Wesley Johnson

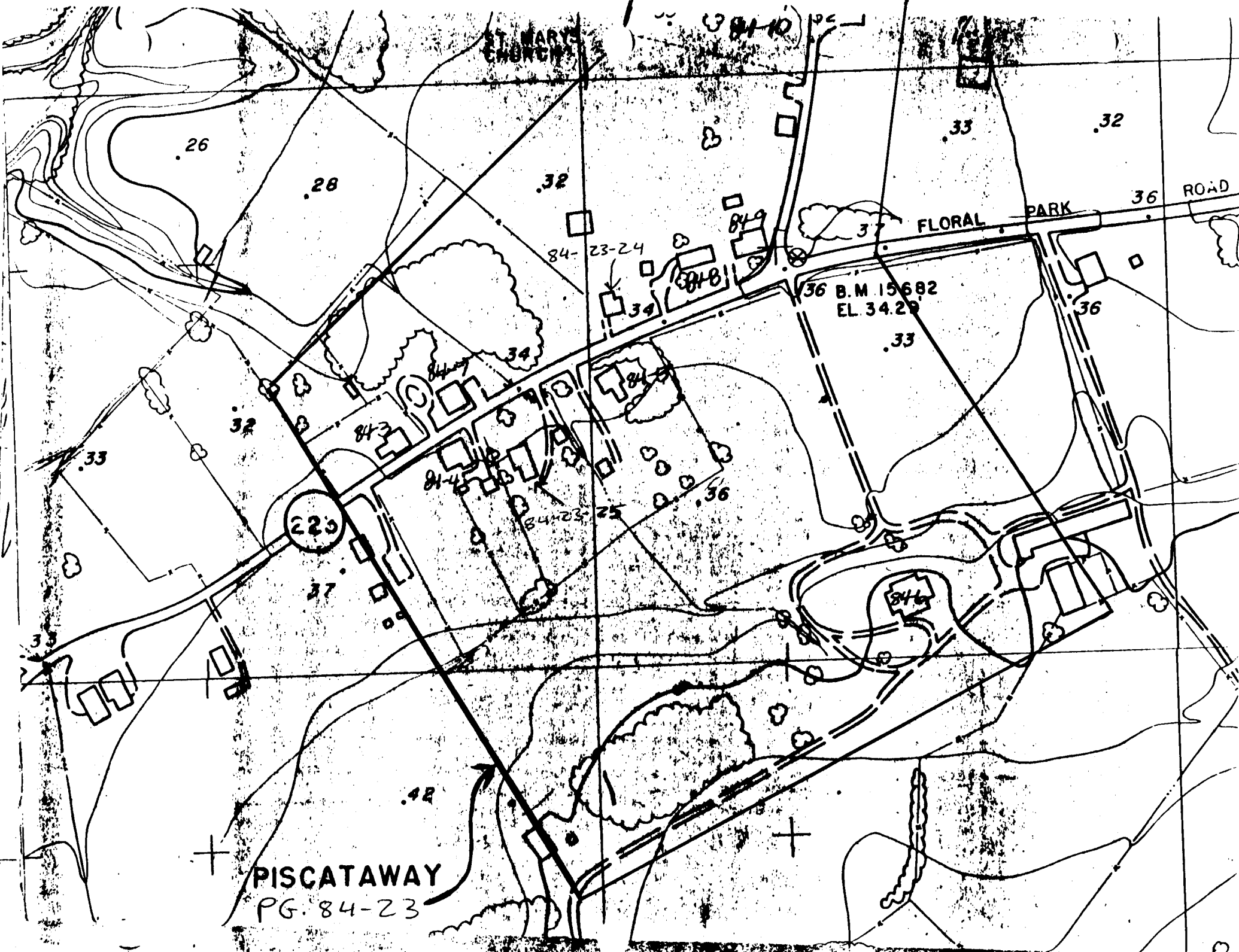
PISCATAWAY DIST.

No. 5.

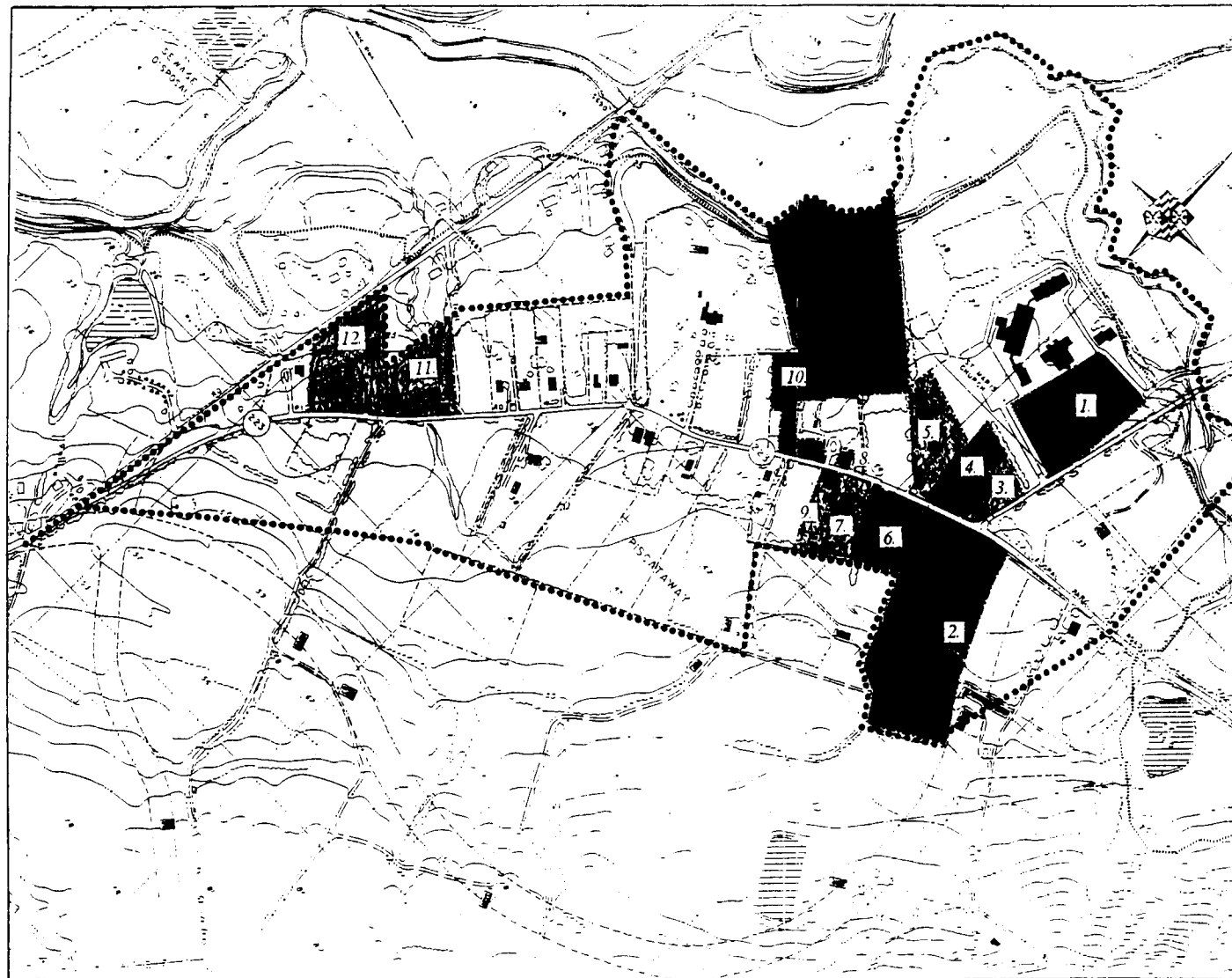
Prince George County

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile









PG: 84-23



Historic Properties in Piscataway

LEGEND

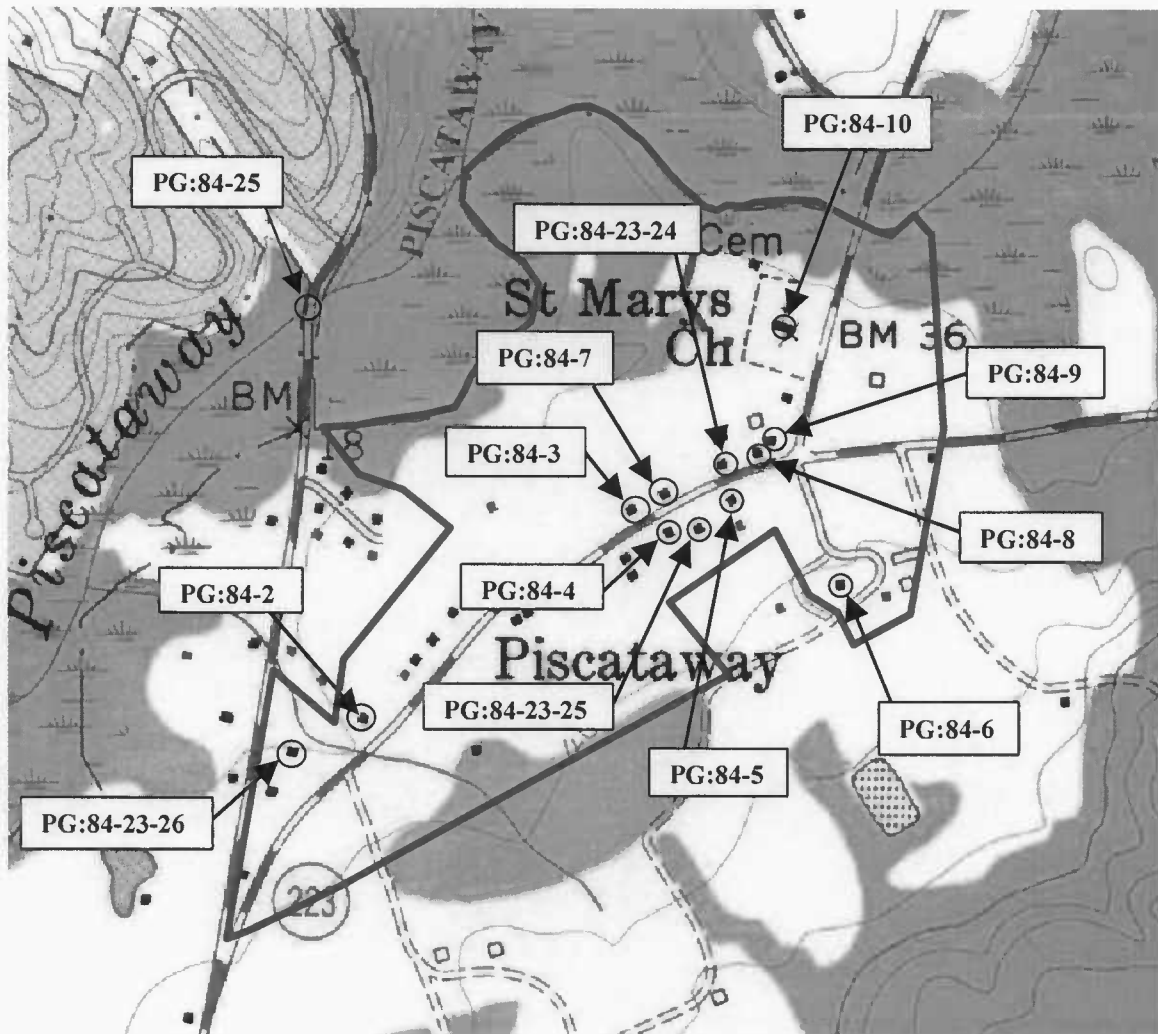
-  Historic Site
 -  Historic Resource
 -  Survey Property
 -  Piscataway Historic Survey Area
1. St. Mary's Church and Cemetery
Historic Site #84-23-10
 2. Edelen House
Historic Site #84-23-6
 3. Miller House
Historic Resource #84-23-9
 4. Dr. Edgar Hurn House
Historic Site #84-23-8
 5. Gallahan-Davis House
Survey Property #84-23-24
 6. Hardy's Tavern
Historic Site #84-23-5
 7. Bond Bungalow
Survey Property, #84-23-25
 8. Harbin House (Clagett Store)
Historic Resource #84-23-7
 9. Stanton-Blandford House
Historic Resource #84-23-4
 10. Piscataway Tavern
Historic Site #84-23-3
 11. Underwood House
Historic Resource #84-23-2
 12. Thomas C. Underwood Bungalow
Survey Property #84-3-20



NO SCALE AVAILABLE

Figure 46. Map of Piscataway Village, depicting Historic Sites, Historic Resources, other properties surveyed by M-NCPPC staff, and the boundaries of the historic survey area (from King and Rivers, *Piscataway Village Rural Conservation Study*, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 1995)

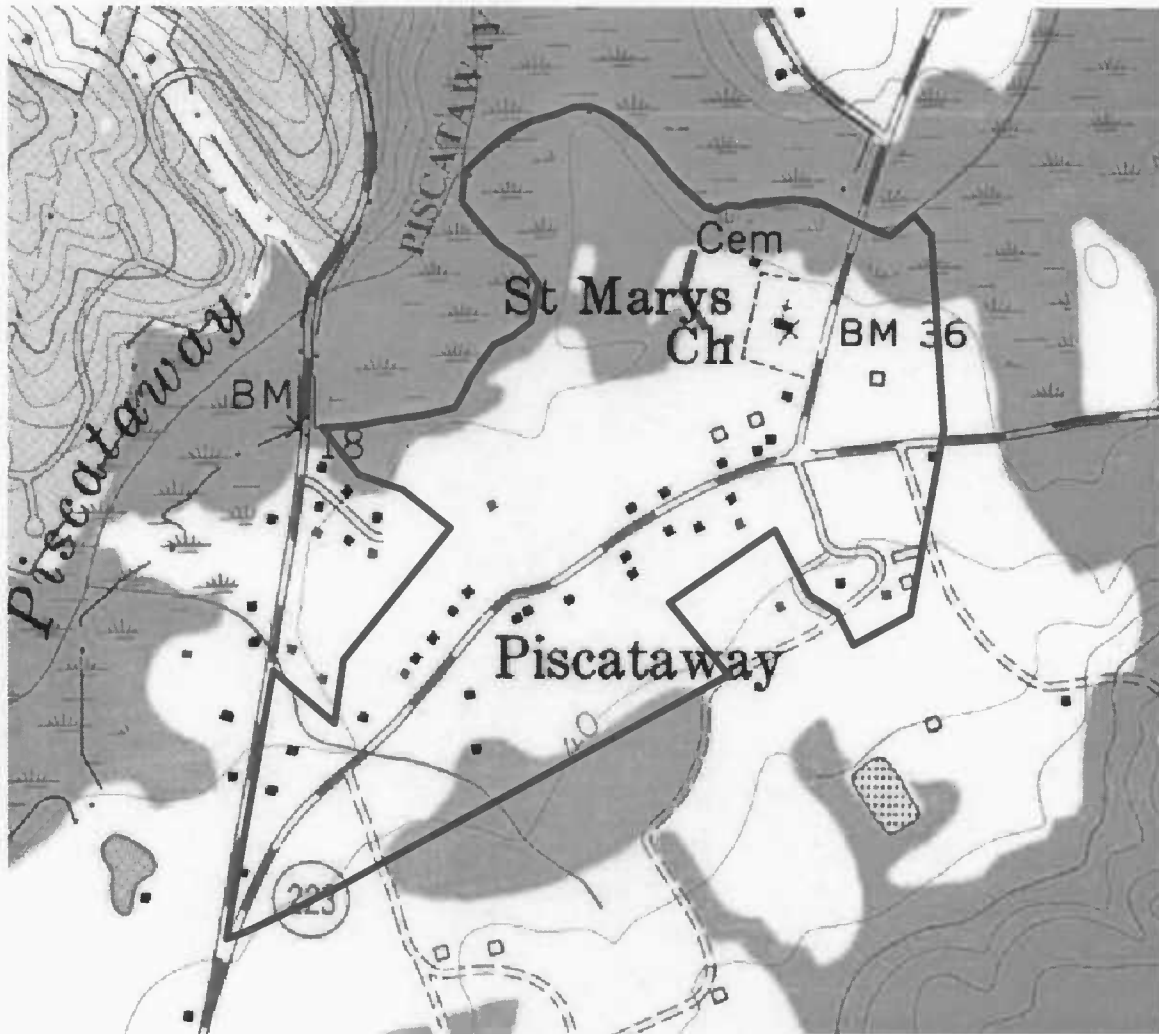
PG:84-23
Piscataway Village Historic District
Piscataway quadrangle



PG:84-23

Piscataway Village Historic District

Piscataway quadrangle





PG: 84-23

P.G.#84-3, -7, -4

Piscataway Village Historic District

Piscat. Tavern, Clagett's store, saltbox

Susan G. Pearl

October 1984

From southwest

Neg: Md. Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD.



PG: 84-23

Piscataway Village Historic District

Davis house

Susan G. Pearl

October 1984

From east

Neg: Md. Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD.